I Fall to Pieces

Deconstructing Finding Aids for Catalog Searching
This Morning

➢ History and overview
➢ Open source vs. out of the box
➢ Design and utility
➢ “Final” product
➢ Effects of design
➢ Future development
Rock History Comes Alive in Cleveland

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Ohio, has been a destination for music lovers since its opening in 1995. The museum's mission is to preserve and celebrate the history of rock and roll, and it achieves this through a variety of exhibits, educational programs, and public events. In this article, we explore the museum's impact on the rock and roll community and its role in preserving musical history.

The museum's main exhibit, "The History of Rock," traces the evolution of rock and roll from its roots in the 1940s to the present day. Visitors can walk through the exhibit, which is divided into sections covering different eras of rock music, and learn about the key figures and moments that shaped the genre. The exhibit features interactive displays, rare photographs, and original artifacts, providing a comprehensive overview of rock's history.

One of the museum's most popular exhibits is "Straight Outta Nowhere: A Visual History of Punk Rock." This section explores the punk rock movement that emerged in the 1970s as a reaction against mainstream rock and roll. Visitors can see early punk outfits, listen to punk music, and learn about the social and political context that influenced the punk scene.

The museum also offers a range of educational programs, including workshops, concerts, and lectures, which engage visitors with the history of rock and roll. These programs cater to music lovers of all ages and provide an opportunity to learn about the music and its cultural impact.

In conclusion, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Ohio, is a vital institution in the world of rock and roll. It serves as a resource for music lovers and historians alike, and its efforts to preserve and celebrate the history of rock and roll are both significant and inspiring.
Where We Are Now

- 2,912 l.f. processed
- 425 collections
- 143 researchers
- 489 reference requests
Ex nihilo

- No ILS
- No archival processing software
- No preservation storage
- No digital initiative
Vendor Decisions

- Bundled solutions are expensive
  - Innovative & ExLibris

- Vendor products didn't fit our needs for video
  - Uncompressed video, PBCore metadata

- Partnered with Case to become an affiliate

- Chose Archivist's Toolkit for our processing software
Digital Decisions

➢ Video was the priority: induction ceremonies
➢ Required lots of storage and specialized processing
➢ Opted for the Fedora repository architecture
  ○ Flexibility with storage systems and metadata standards
➢ Chose a vendor to digitize our tapes
Fedora is only a backend

Needed a web-based interface to manage, catalog and ingest content

Hydra gives you the ability to manage Fedora within a web framework:

- Ruby on Rails + Solr + Blacklight
Storage

- Initial estimates for 250 TB of data with expansion over time
- Required two off-site copies
- Cloud storage too expensive at the time
- HSM solution: combines hard disk and tapes
- Multiple tapes stored offsite: Museum downtown, and Iron Mountain in PA
Three data types: MARC, EAD, PBCore
Funneled into one datastore: Solr
Interface to Solr for library data: Blacklight
EAD are separated into multiple item-level records for better searching
All content in Hydra is item-level
Discovering Finding Aids

- What is a discovery interface for a finding aid?
- Determine the atomic unit for discovery
  - MARC record
  - Digital object
  - Collection? Item?
- Collections are decomposed into component parts for better discovery
Reasoning

➢ Most of our content is item-driven
➢ MARC and digital content needs to “stack up” against archival collections
➢ Greater control over search behaviors
➢ Collections can be re-assembled with additional digital content NOT described in the collection
Technology Stack

➢ Blacklight: Rails web application with a Solr backend and functions for search and display
➢ SolrMarc: indexes marc records into Solr
➢ solr_ead: indexes ead into Solr
➢ Hydra: indexes digital objects into Solr
➢ Wowza: video streaming
Indexing

➢ All metadata is indexed in Solr as individual documents
➢ One document per MARC, digital object (PBCore), and EAD
➢ One document per every component node in an EAD
➢ A single finding aid is 1+N solr documents
Search Experience

- Results are MARC records, EAD collections, EAD component, and digital objects
- Non-item level components are suppressed from search results
- Individual items are displayed as either the full MARC record, complete finding aid, or the component/object within its collection
Aside: What is Hydra?

- Blacklight + Fedora for data persistence and preservation
- Can be: IR, A/V, archival, or anything
- Our use: video preservation, access, and description
- Exports metadata into our catalog with videos and their collection metadata
Downsides

➢ Complicated
➢ In-house solution
➢ No canonical EAD or collection record
➢ Development is time-consuming
➢ High staff costs
➢ No paid support
Upsides

➢ Does something no one else is doing
➢ Fits our needs exactly
➢ Low technology costs
➢ Open-source
➢ Hydra/Blacklight community support
Live Demo
Effects: Processing

➢ Restricted notes
➢ Hierarchies
➢ Description
Effects: Reference

➢ Less information overload
➢ Mobile-friendly
➢ Single search
➢ Digital items in context
➢ Search catalog/collection
➢ Bookmarks
What’s Next?

- Digital Access and Systems Librarian
- Image digitization workflow and processing: 4 TB, 90,000 image backlog
- Extending Hydra's capabilities
- Institutional repository for the Rock Hall
- Community engagement
- LAM integration
Questions?

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